From: The IACP
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Greetings Jeremy Grimes

Thursday, July 18, 2019

POLICING & POLICY

Oakland, California Bans Use Of Facial Recognition Technology

The San Francisco Chronicle (7/17, Ravani) reports that the Oakland, California City Council "voted unanimously Tuesday to ban the use of facial recognition by city departments, including police, making it the third city in the country to do so after San Francisco and Somerville, Mass." The ordinance "amends the city's current surveillance ordinance and prevent city departments from adopting any facial recognition technology and from using information obtained by the software." The Chronicle adds, "A study released in January 2018 by the M.I.T. Media Lab found that facial recognition software incorrectly identified up to 35% of darker-skinned women. In 2016, Georgetown University estimated that 117 million Americans were in law enforcement facial recognition databases," and "found police facial recognition technology disproportionately affects African Americans."

Lee, Paul Put Legislation Providing Compensation To 9/11 Responders On Hold

The Washington Post (7/17, Barrett) reports two Republican senators have put holds on legislation "providing compensation to 9/11 workers, sparking an emotional appeal on behalf of those sick and dying after responding to Ground Zero." Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) "spoke out on the Senate floor Wednesday after Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) proposed that the bill be approved by unanimous consent. Under Senate rules, an objection from a single senator can block a measure offered via unanimous consent." Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) "also has placed a hold on the legislation, according to advocates." Paul "said he objected because any program that would last decades 'should be offset by cutting spending that's less valuable. We need, at the very least, to have this debate.'"

Politico (7/17, Levine) reports Gillibrand "accused Republicans of playing 'political games'" after Paul's move. The bill, co-sponsored by Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO), "would guarantee that first responders who faced health problems after the attacks, as well as their survivors, would receive their full benefit from the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. The bill comes amid warnings from the fund's special master that benefits could be reduced significantly based on insufficient funds."

CQ Roll Call (7/17, Lesniewski) reports that Lee and Paul "are fiscal hawks who often oppose new spending unless paid for with cuts elsewhere in the federal budget." A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader McConnell "confirmed on Wednesday that the plan is to vote on the measure before the August recess." USA Today (7/17, Wu) reports the Senate is likely to pass the bill, which "currently has 73 bipartisan cosponsors."

Ohio Workers Compensation Budget Does Not Include PTSD Coverage For First Responders

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (7/17, Ludlow) reports, "A long-term budget for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation – without coverage for first responders' post-traumatic stress disorder – appears headed for passage Wednesday by the General Assembly." According to the Dispatch, "A conference committee of House and Senate members voted unanimously Wednesday morning to approve a compromise bill, sending it to scheduled floor votes later in the day." The Dispatch adds, "Uncomfortable with policy provisions inserted into the budget by majority House Republicans,...the Senate stripped out the proposals, vowing to

handle PTSD coverage for public safety workers in separate legislation later in the year." A late effort "to save PTSD coverage for police officers, firefighters and others fell one vote short in conference committee."

Register today for IACP's Drug, Alcohol, and Impaired Driving Conference (DAID), August 10-12, 2019, in Anaheim, California. The conference will explore pivotal topics such as the impacts of marijuana from a toxicology perspective, optimizing field sobriety tests for use in drugged driving cases, and new drug trends and their impact on traffic safety.

New This Year!

DAID 2019 will also offer two new tracks for executives and those interested in traffic safety. Sessions in these new tracks include:

- Developing Law Enforcement Leaders Through the DECP
- Traffic Safety Leadership and Maintain your DRE Certification Throughout Your Career
- Crash Prevention Through High Visibility Enforcement
- Automation, Innovation, and the Evolving Challenge of Truck and Bus Safety

Visit www.theiacp.org/DAIDconference to register, book hotel accommodations, and receive updates about the conference, including the release of the DAID 2019 mobile app in mid-July.

Connect with the IACP online: **IACP Event Calendar:**

CRIME & DRUGS

FBI, Italian Police Crack Down On Mafia Clan With Gambino Ties

The AP (7/17) reports from Rome that "Italian police and FBI agents have cracked down on a Palermo-area Mafia clan with ties to the US-based Gambino crime family." Police "said that around 200 officers including FBI agents fanned out in Sicily and in the New York area Wednesday, arresting 18 suspects in Italy and one in the United States." Palermo Police Chief Renato Cortese "told reporters that members of the Sicilian Passo di Rigano crime clan had settled in the U.S. in the 1980s after surviving a turf war with the Corleone crime clan, which emerged victorious over the Inzerillo crime family in the Palermo area."

The Washington Post (7/17, Parker, Pitrelli) reports, "Italian police and FBI agents arrested 19 Mafia suspects in Sicily and New York on Wednesday in a coordinated crackdown that brought to the fore the enduring transatlantic ties between organized crime families in Italy and the United States, according to Italian authorities." The Post adds, "About 200 Italian police and FBI officers carried out the raids in the Palermo region of Sicily and in the New York area early Wednesday, CBS News reported. Eighteen people in Italy and one in New York were arrested." The arrests "marked the culmination of a nearly year-long joint investigation by Italian and US law enforcement that delved into an organized crime network that has regrouped and strengthened its cross-continental collaboration, according to Rodolfo Ruperti, the chief investigator for the Palermo judicial police." FBI spokeswoman Lauren Hagee "confirmed in an email that 'the FBI was involved and is assisting Italian authorities' but declined to comment further."

CNN (7/17, Messia, Kent) reports, "The operation, codenamed 'New Connection,' involved more than 200 officers in Palermo and New York City." Investigations "also revealed how pervasive the influence of the mafia is in the Sicilian town of Passo Rigano," as "according to Italian police, the mafia not only engages in extortion there, but also has a large role in the town's legal economy – with its involvement in business such as wholesale food supplies, online betting and gambling."

Connecticut Man Arrested On Kidnapping, Sexual Assault Charges After Law Enforcement Matches DNA

The Boston Herald (7/17, Martinez) reports Joshua Besaw, 35, of Thompson, Connecticut "has been arrested on charges related to the kidnapping and sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl from a Webster, Massachusetts park in May." He was detained after law enforcement in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and the FBI were able to match his DNA to the crime.

Operation Broken Heart Aims To Curb Human Trafficking

The Rhea County (TN) Herald News (7/17, Blankley) reports the US Justice Department has engaged in an initiative to curb human trafficking in the US called "Operation Broken Heart." US Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia Bobby Christine said, "As the perception of sexual exploitation of children continues to move from windowless vans in back alleys to Dark Web sites on the Internet, the investigation and prosecution of these vile crimes must continue to evolve." Operation Broken Heart has "resulted in the arrests of nearly 1,700 suspected online child sex offenders."

US Overdose Deaths Declined By Five Percent Last Year

The New York Times (7/17, Goodnough, Katz, Sanger-Katz) reports that "three decades of ever-escalating deaths from drug overdoses in the United States have come to an end, according to preliminary government data made public Wednesday." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says "total drug overdose deaths in America declined by around 5 percent last year, the first drop since 1990." Vox (7/17, Lopez) says there are "several reasons to be cautious about the report." First, the CDC data "is preliminary and subject to change. Overdose deaths could end up higher or lower than the data says right now." in addition, this is not "the first time that it's appeared the opioid epidemic has leveled off. Between 2011 and 2012, drug overdose deaths appeared to level off around 41,500," but ultimately "skyrocketed to 70,000 in 2017." Moreover, "overdose deaths from synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, are still trending up, based on the preliminary CDC data." America, Vox adds, "still has an alarmingly high overdose death rate."

The Washington Post (7/17, A1, Horwitz, Rich, Higham) reports the death rate from opioids "soared in the towns, cities and counties that were saturated with billions of prescription pain pills from 2006 through 2012, according to government death data and a previously undisclosed database of opioid shipments made public this week." During those years, "the highest per capita death rates nationwide from opioids...were in rural communities in West Virginia, Kentucky and Virginia." In that time period, "those communities also were flooded with a disproportionate share of the 76 billion oxycodone and hydrocodone pain pills from some of the country's largest drug companies, an analysis by The Washington Post reveals."

West Virginia Law Enforcement Warns Residents Not To Use Wasp Spray As Alternative To Meth

Newsweek (7/17, Gander) reports, "Police who fear wasp spray is linked to three overdoses in West Virginia have warned against using the product as an alternative to meth." According to Newsweek, "People in Boone County...are creating a substance similar to meth, according to police." West Virginia State Police Sgt. Charles Sutphin "told WCHS: 'We're seeing this here on the streets in Boone County. People are making a synthetic type of methamphetamine out of wasp spray.'" Sutphin "told the broadcaster users can behave erratically, and their hands and feet might become swollen and red." He "described it was a 'cheap fix' but said the long-term effects are unknown. 'From what we're being told, if you use it, you know, you might use it one or twice and be fine, but the third time when your body hits that allergic reaction, it can kill you,' he warned."

TECHNOLOGY

FBI Probing Possible Cyberattack Against Georgia County Government Operations

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (7/17, Stafford) reports, "Henry County leaders are investigating a possible cyber attack that forced the south metro community to take down its network all day Wednesday to safeguard the information of taxpayers." The AJC adds, "The county said its tech team flagged a potential cyber incident around 4 a.m. Wednesday and later disabled servers that host the county's email and daily operations, such as tax collections, business licences and building permits, out of caution. Phones at county offices were also impacted." According to the AJC, "The county said it is working with the FBI and the Georgia Technology Authority 'to identify the issue and rectify any persistent issues.'"

GLOBAL SECURITY

Driver Convicted Of Terror Attack Outside UK Parliament

The Telegraph (UK) (7/17) reports, "A student has been found guilty of trying to kill cyclists and police officers outside the Houses of Parliament." Salih Khater, 30, "ploughed his Ford Fiesta into a pedestrian and a group of cyclists who had stopped at a red light in Parliament Square on August 14 last year," and "he then careered into a security lane and crashed into barriers as two police officers jumped out of the way." Prosecutors said Khater, of Birmingham, "wanted to cause maximum carnage and it was 'miraculous' that no-one was killed," but "Khater claimed he came to London to find the Sudanese embassy to get a visa, 'got lost' around Westminster and panicked."

The Independent (UK) (7/17, Dearden) reports, "The Old Bailey heard that the 30-year-old refugee drove from Birmingham to London in the early hours of the morning after searching for directions to Downing Street and Westminster as 'deliberate targets'." The court "was played footage of his car ploughing through a group of cyclists waiting at a traffic light, before swerving towards a barrier manned by uniformed police officers at 30mph." Khater "claimed the crash was an accident and denied attempted murder, but prosecutors said the manoeuvres could not have been accidentally performed and there was no fault with his Ford Fiesta."

House Bill Would Force Disclosures Of Terrorism Watchlist

The AP (7/17, Barakat) reports, "The House has adopted a proposal from Democratic Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar that would force President Donald Trump's administration to disclose details about how it shares the FBI's watchlist of more than 1 million individuals classified as 'known or suspected terrorists' with foreign countries." According to the AP, "Omar's amendment to the Intelligence Authorization Act was adopted Tuesday night on the House floor by a voice vote," and "would require a report within 180 days detailing which foreign countries get access to the database and how such decisions are made." The watchlist "has been subject to multiple lawsuits challenging its constitutionality," and "critics say the list is mismanaged and innocent Muslims end up on it with no recourse for clearing their names."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Federal Court Reinstates Challenge To Virginia's "Habitual Drunkard" Law**
- **US Charges 22 MS-13 Gang Members With Murder, Drug Trafficking In Los Angeles**
- **Government Agencies Push For Longer Mandatory Retention Of Metadata**
- **Inquest Jury Clears Officers In Deaths Of London Bridge Attackers**
- **Baltimore Police Supervisor Led Two Officers Into Active Shooting Scene At Methadone Clinic**

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